

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PROPOSAL

There are approximately 23,000 Transition Age Youth (TAY). Approximately 17,000 youth are under the Foster care or Probation systems and the remaining approximate 6,000 youth have exited the system but still remain eligible for services from the Chafee funds administered by DCFS and Probation. With the advent of AB12 approximately 80% of those youth eligible have opted to stay in the system longer creating greater demands on the ILP resources and the time of both the CSWs and Probation officers. In addition, with the implementation of AB12 there are ever changing rules and regulations making it almost impossible for CSWs to keep up with what is required. State and Federal changes also make it difficult for CSWs to know what resources and funds are available and what the requirements are to access those resources for youth on their caseload.

Key Principals

- I. **ILP Transition Coordinators:** At least one ILP Transition Coordinators (ILP TC)** is stationed at each regional office to serve as resource for staff in effective transition planning for foster youth 16 and older
 - a. ILP TC in charge of leading meetings with youth and CSW every 6 months starting at age 16 to assist the youth and CSW in developing a meaningful transitional independent living plans (TILPs) , and to begin discussion and planning to explore youth's options after 18.

CSW participation is mandatory since the TILP is part of the CSW case planning responsibility. In addition the CSW is required to integrate the TILP into the youth's case plan and implement the TILP. These transition meetings can be scheduled as part of CSW's monthly visit with youth

Youth should be consulted as to who else should participate in these meetings as supportive people in their transition planning process or can serve as permanent connections. CSWs and ILP TCs can also make suggestions as to other relevant representatives to invite to each meeting to maximize benefit to youth. As an example a particular transitional housing provider may be suited to support specific needs of the youth

If youth plans to leave care, the last meeting with the ILP TC while they are in care will be the 90 day transition planning conference where the 90 day transition plan will be developed. Resource Counselors from the YDS's disbursement unit will also participate in order to complete the federal exit outcome report (see Part II.a)

- b. ILPTC will work with youth beginning age 16 to obtain job training, part time jobs, and summer employment

- c. Work as a Liaison between the youth and CSW and the RC from the disbursement unit to obtain appropriate funds.
- d. Assist youth in identifying transitional housing to meet their needs when exiting the system.
- e. Identify funding available to meet the youth and CSW plan for the youth to attend college.
- f. Hold workshops in the regions to assist youth in filing an annual tax return when appropriate.
- g. Hold informational workshops in the region on topics such as identity theft, etc.

****NOTE:** whether one ILP TC would be sufficient to support a regional office will depend on the size of the 16 years and older youth population in each office. Additional ILP TC may be needed for regional offices with large transition age populations.

II. **YDS Administration:** YDS continues to centrally administer the following functions.

- a. Resource Counselors (RC) will be created from existing staff from ILP housing to administer disbursements for all ILP funding requests. This unit will not only authorize and assist all youth who are in foster care but will also handle funding requests and counseling for those 6,000 youth who have exited either the Probation or Foster care systems but are still eligible for services and funds.
- b. Training: all ILP TCs and Resource Counselors are to be trained by YDS so that they will be current on changes in eligibility, state and federal regulation requirements, funding, housing resources, and county policy changes. Knowledge of the ever changing resources is crucial so that ILPTC and RC can continue to provide important support for the youth and the CSW to accomplish the plan and goals for the youth that will lead to self- sufficiency.
- c. Communication: YDS will coordinate county wide communication within DCFS, inter-county departments, courts, youth's attorney, the Youth, providers, relatives and the greater community regarding issues or resources pertinent to transition age foster youth. Keep ILPONLINE.ORG updated and current.
- d. Resource development and administration for all ILP eligible youth: current example includes MTA Tap pass pilot.
- e. Develop employment opportunities and training through a variety of sources including CSS, WIBs, private employers, etc.
- f. Develop dept. policy on transitional housing such as SILPs, THP+ FC, THP+. Coordinate and implement transitional housing by working with LAHSA, CDC, DMH, and contracted providers on existing housing issues and development of additional housing.
- g. Work with and coordinate with DPSS.
- h. Develop Scholarship opportunities.

III. ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Clearly define the roles of the ILPTC and the CSW. These roles have been confusing in the past and have led to the youth “falling through the cracks”.
- b. Incentivize regional offices utilize and leverage ILPTCs as a resource within their offices to improve transition planning.
- c. Develop MAPP goals and hold regional offices accountable for the outcomes of their youth.
- d. Clearly define self-sufficiency and the role the CSW plays in assisting the youth to become self-sufficient. There seems to be confusion between self-sufficiency that encompasses children 0-18 and YDS which is a resource for supporting youth 16-21 transitioning out of the system.
- e. Develop a MAPP goal for a process component, e.g. Increase CSW compliance in developing and implementing meaningful TILPs every 6 months for ILP eligible youth.
- f. Develop a MAPP goal relating to Outcome component e.g. as measured by the federal exit outcome for youth exiting care